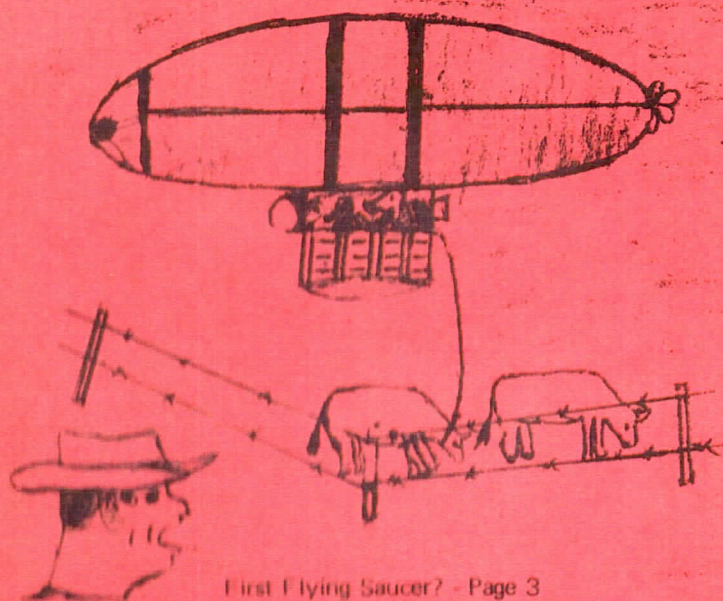


# IN THE BEGINNING



First Flying Saucer? - Page 3

Published Quarterly By  
Woodson County Historical Society  
Yates Center, Kansas  
Vol. 3 - No. 12

## IN THE BEGINNING

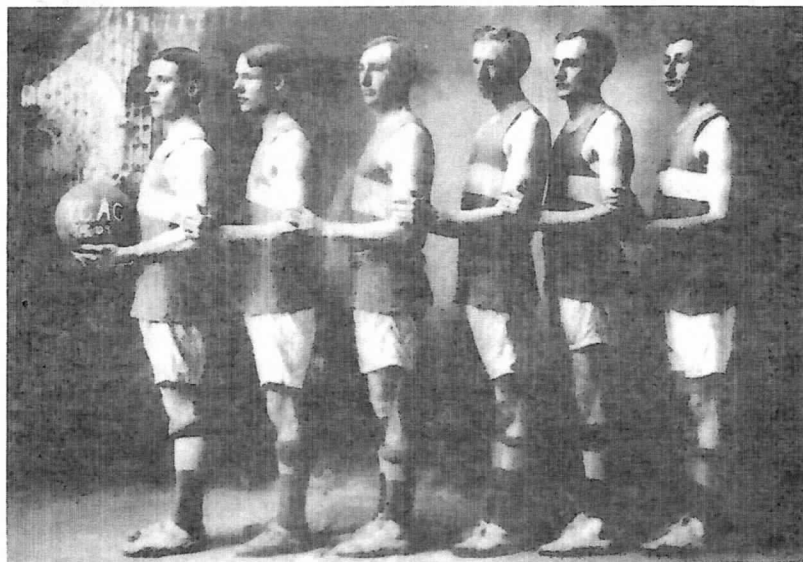
Vol. 3 - No. 12

October - 1970

Lester A. Harding - Editor

### Editor's Notes —

☒ To All Subscribers: If there is a red checkmark in this box it means that your subscription to "IN THE BEGINNING" has expired with this issue. We hope our readers will cooperate by sending in their renewal promptly. Send all remittances and correspondence to Woodson County Historical Society, 411 N. State Street, Yates Center, Kansas 66783. We tried this once before. Whether our readers did not read it or forgot it we do not know, but it did not work out too well.



Basketball team of the Yates Center High School, or Y. C. Athletic Club as it was known - the year 1908-09. From left to right: Ray Singleton, Earl Patterson, A. G. Beine, Fred Beine, Edward Stockebrand, Wallace Elliot.

\* \* \* \* \*

We do not know how much longer this quarterly can be sold at this price, but for the present it is still the same price.

\* \* \* \* \*

IN THE BEGINNING  
Published Quarterly By  
Woodson County Historical Society  
Yates Center, Kansas

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WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Organized March, 1965

The 30 by 40 foot addition to the Museum has been completed and the much needed space is being utilized. A much needed workroom has been partitioned off of the new addition. On behalf of the Woodson County Historical Society, we wish to thank the people who, with their donations, helped make this new building possible. There are new additions to the displays and articles given to the museum by members and friends of the Historical Society.

\* \* \* \* \*

In Memorium

Mrs. Anna Trusler

92

July 1, 1970

\* \* \* \* \*

Anna Parsons was born at Neosho Falls, Kansas, in 1878. She had lived her entire life in Woodson County. She was married to Dr. O. B. Trusler in 1899. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in Yates Center, where they had lived all their married life.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Memorial Plaque that is placed in the Museum has a growing list of names. The Memorial Plaque is composed of names of business or professional people, farmers or early settlers—people who have had something to do with the life of Woodson County. A book telling something about each of these people is on a shelf directly below the plaque. Donors give \$100 to place the names of loved ones on this plaque.

This is a fitting memorial for the ones who have in some way helped to shape the events of the county. Names on this plaque up to the present time are the following:

Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Cantrell  
Paul Knight Laidlaw  
Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Stephenson  
Hugh R. Campbell  
Mr. and Mrs. W. J. O'Donnell  
Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Arnold

Mr. and Mrs. H. T. (Bert) Laidlaw  
Dr. C. B. Burnett  
D. D. Degler  
Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Wallace  
Mr. and Mrs. James W. Tipton

\* \* \* \* \*

— Membership dues to Historical Society —  
Life membership—\$25.00                      \$2.00 per year

## IN THE BEGINNING

### ALEXANDER HAMILTON'S AIRSHIP—1897 —

Seventy-three years ago, in the spring of 1897, the world was startled by a story told by Alexander Hamilton concerning an airship manned by some sort of foreigners who swooped low over the Hamilton Ranch near Vernon and roped a heifer from the feed lot. The Woodson County Advocate, Yates Center, originally printed the story. Other weekly papers re-printed the tale and eventually the big city dailies re-printed it in more-or-less full form.

Here is the story as printed in the Woodson County Advocate of April 23, 1897:

Hon. Alexander Hamilton of Vernon, came to town last Wednesday and created quite an excitement by announcing that he had been having some experience with the much talked about airship. Mr. Hamilton is an old settler, was a member of the legislature in the early days and is known all over Woodson, Coffey and Anderson Counties. He stakes his sacred honor on the truthfulness of his story. To a representative of the Advocate, Mr. Hamilton said:

"Last Monday night about half past ten o'clock we were awakened by a noise among the cattle. I arose, thinking perhaps my bulldog was performing some of his pranks, but upon getting to the door saw to my amazement, an airship slowly descending over my cow lot about 50 rods from the house. Calling Gib Heslop, my tenant, and my son, Wall, we seized some axes and ran to the corral. Meanwhile the ship had been gently descending until it was no more than 30 feet above the ground and we came up within 50 yards of it.

"It consisted of a great cigar-shaped portion, possibly 300 feet long, with a carriage underneath. The carriage was made of panels of glass or other transparent substance, alternating with a narrow strip of some other material. It was brilliantly lighted within and everything was clearly visible. There were three lights, one like an immense searchlight and two smaller—one red and the other green. The largest was susceptible of being turned in any direction. It was occupied by six of the strangest beings I ever saw. There were two men, a woman and three children. They were jabbering together but we could not understand a syllable they said.

"Every part of the vessel that was not transparent was a dark reddish color. We stood mute in wonder and fright when some noise attracted our attention and they turned their light directly upon us. Immediately upon catching sight of us they turned on some unknown power and a great turbine wheel about thirty feet in diameter, which was slowly revolving below the craft, began to buzz, sounding precisely like the cylinder of a separator and the vessel rose as lightly as a bird. When about 300 feet above us it seemed to pause and hover di-

rectly over a three-year-old heifer which was bawling and jumping apparently fast in the fence. Going to her we found a cable about a half inch in thickness, made of some red material fastened in a slip knot around her neck, one end passing up to the vessel and tangled in the wire. We tried to get her off but could not so we cut the wire loose and stood in amazement to see the cow, ship and all rise slowly and sail off, disappearing in the northwest. We went home but I was frightened and could not sleep, but rose early Tuesday morning, mounted my horse and started out hoping to find some trace of my cow. This I failed to do but coming back to LeRoy in the evening found that Lank Thomas, who lives in Coffey County, about three or four miles west of LeRoy had found the hide, legs and head in his field that day. He, thinking someone had butchered a stolen beast and thrown the hide away, had brought it to town for identification, but was greatly mystified in not being able to find any track of any kind on the soft ground.



Alexander Hamilton

"I went home that night but every time I would drop off to sleep I would see that cursed thing with its big lights and hideous people. I don't know whether they were devils or angels or what, but we all saw them and my whole family saw the ship and I don't want any more to do with them."

Mr. Hamilton looked as if he had not entirely recovered from the

shock and everyone who heard him was convinced he was sincere in every word.

That ended the Advocate story except the affidavit that some of his friends signed and acknowledged:

State of Kansas, Woodson County, ss:

As there are now and always have been and always will be, skeptics and unbelievers whenever the truth bordering on the improbable is presented, and knowing that some ignorant or suspicious people will doubt the truthfulness of the above statement, now

Therefore, we the undersigned do hereby make the following affidavit that we have known Alex Hamilton 18 to 30 years and that for truth and veracity we have never heard his word questioned and that we do believe his statement to be true and correct.

Signed: M. E. Hunt, Sheriff; W. Lauber, Deputy Sheriff; E. V. Wharton, State Oil Inspector; S. H. Johnson, pharmacist; E. K. Kellenberger, M. D.; J. H. Stitcher, attorney, Alex Stewart, Justice of the Peace; J. Waymire, druggist; F. W. Butler, druggist; Jas. L. Martin, Register of Deeds; H. C. Rollins, Postmaster. Subscribed and sworn to before me this 21st day of April, 1897.

W. C. Wille, Notary Public

While the airship story of Mr. Hamilton was regarded as more-or-less a hoax by people in this area it soon traveled far and wide as first one of the large daily newspapers and then another took it up. The St. Louis Globe-Dispatch was the first large paper to publish it.

O. C. Rose, who grew up in the Pleasant View vicinity and knew Alex Hamilton, wrote in later years that a group of men would meet in Yates Center about once a week and swap stories and on this particular day in April, 1897, as Hamilton and his hired man were coming to town Alex told the hired man that he was going to tell a tale that would beat them all—and he did.

Mrs. W. O. Shaw, who was born and raised along Cherry Creek near the Hamilton home and spent a lot of her time visiting with the Hamilton girls, tells that she was at the Hamilton home when Alex Hamilton came home from Yates Center that day and told his wife the story as he had told it to the Advocate reporter. Mrs. Hamilton would exclaim, "Why Alex"! and would reprimand him for telling such an outrageous story. Mrs. Shaw lives in Yates Center.

Down through the years the airship story has been brought to life by newspapers and people who have read the story through back files of some eastern newspaper. During the past few years the story has appeared in different western magazines. A paperback book, "Flying Saucers—Serious Business," by Frank Edwards, tells the story with several variations from the original story.

Whether the Unidentified Flying Object told about by Alex Hamilton was a hoax or not it showed that Hamilton was not an ordinary



story teller.

Tales concerning the sighting of strange aerial objects were being told about over various parts of the United States during March and April of 1897, about the same time Hamilton told about his. The machine was similar, was silent, was a glowing red in color. It used some sort of revolving wheel-like thing for part of its propulsion, same shape and seemed to be under the intelligent control of unusual-appearing living creatures of more-or-less humanoid appearance. At that time they were called airships—now they are called Flying Saucers or Unidentified Flying Objects.

\* \* \* \* \*

Toronto — 1885: Killed by a Bursting Wheel

The accident that struck our city with deep sorrow, Mr. Michener accompanied by several parties had gone to the Verdigris River to run a sawmill for W. H. Ledgerwood, located several miles down the river from Toronto—the week before the accident and on Monday the day of the accident they were without a sawer and Michener, who was the engineer, volunteered to fill the vacancy.

Having charge of the engine and the saw both at the same time, evidently had more on his hands than he could conduct, and while paying attention to the saw he allowed too much steam to run and just before the fatal stroke one of the hands spoke to him saying, "shut off the steam," when he seemed bewildered, evidently from the rapidity in which the machinery was running, and stood for a moment without moving when all of a sudden he seemed to realize the danger and caught the lever which controls the throttle just as the wheel which runs the upper saw broke a piece, which struck him just above the heart on the breast, another on the leg between the knee and the ankle. Having hold of the throttle lever when the blow was struck he clung to it and fell, throwing on full power, when it was said by those present the engine seemed to jump a foot off the ground. One of the hands then ventured up and turned off the steam. Michener raised himself up and walked erect for a few steps and fell on his face and when someone approached raised up and exclaimed, "Don't," and was soon dead.

The remains were removed from there to Toronto by Seth Kellogg and L. L. Byington

THE GODFREY WEIDE FAMILY —

In the year 1858, Godfrey Weide, his wife Charlotte and three small children, Charles H., 12; Minnie, who later married John Liebau, and Frederick W., age 3, came to upper Turkey Creek in a covered wagon, pulled by a yoke of oxen.

A small log cabin had been built along the north side of the creek by some early settler or trader that did not stay very long. The Weide family moved into this log cabin. And it was in this cabin that William M. Weide was born in March, 1861.

Godfrey Weide, his wife and two oldest children were natives of

Germany. In 1855 they came to America and stopped in Cook County, Ill., near Chicago, where they had relatives. Godfrey had been a shepherd in the old country and was seeking a place where he could raise sheep like he wanted to. Not long after arriving in America their son Frederick W. was born.

In 1857, they decided to come to Kansas, and made the trip in a covered wagon. In Cook County Weide had become acquainted with a young man, John Light, who made the journey to Kansas with them. They stayed that winter with relatives between LeRoy and Aliceville in Coffey County.

Evidently scouting around for a place to homestead that winter, they decided on Turkey Creek. Here on the prairie of Woodson County Godfrey Weide began to make his dream of raising sheep come true.

In 1871, in order to make more room for the family, a small rock building with an upstairs that was accessible by an outdoor stairway. After almost a hundred years this building still stands. A key rock on the east side has the initials G. W. 1871 carved on it. The rocks were held together by homemade mortar, having barley chaff and straw holding it together.

The year 1871, when the rock house was built, was noted for other occasions also. In that year the wife and mother Charlotte (Mockerott) passed away and was buried on a knoll not far from the north bank of Turkey Creek to the south and east of the homestead. In later years a stone with her name and death was placed at the Turkey Creek Cemetery.

In the Vol. 3 - No. 9 of In The Beginning we told that when Godfrey's brother Karl Weide and family came here in 1870, they had to live at the Godfrey Weide home because the W. B. Butler family were living in the only available cabin on the homestead. We were told that the Karl Weide family lived in the rock house, but the dates do not correspond.

Being among the first settlers along this part of Turkey Creek and as much of the land was not settled and was free range, the Weides would graze their cattle and sheep both to the north and south of Turkey Creek. They kept, as a rule, around 150 head of cattle and 500 sheep. The sheep were grazed mostly to the south and were brought back to the fold on the farm at night. These folds were kept on the cropland and moved at regular times, enriching the soil as they were moved about.

About 1873 the large sheep barn that stood for so many years along close to the bank of Turkey Creek was built, the lower part of the barn of native sandstone and the upper part of native lumber that was hauled from a sawmill at LeRoy. The lower part was so designed that it was possible to care for one or several sheep at a time.

The upper part of the bank barn was used mostly for storage of feed for the sheep.



About the first year the barn was built a colony of German-Russians came to Woodson County to settle around what was soon known as Nikkeltown. Until they could get their own homes built there were eighteen families living in the sheep barn for awhile.

Being the oldest of the children, Charles H. Weide took over many of the farm activities. In 1873 he was married to Miss Minnie Opperman, who had arrived here from Germany that year. On the marriage license her name was given as Minoa Bausfeld. She was a step-daughter of one of the Bausfeld's.

Sometime in late 1873 or in 1874, a new house was built on the homestead. It was known as the "mud" house, and was built by some of the German-Russian colony mentioned above. It was a two-story building with three rooms downstairs and two upstairs. The walls were around eight to ten inches thick, with the mud or clay held together with hay or straw. One method these Germans had of making this mud mixture was to find the right kind of soil or clay pan, plow it up, cover it with hay and straw, wait until a good rain came. Horses and oxen were then driven back and forth until the hay and straw were thoroughly mixed into the mud, let dry and then cut into blocks. Some of the mud was tamped into forms made like cement forms. When the mud dried it made a solid wall, warm in winter and cool in summer.

Godfrey was a stocky, heavy-built man that many tales were told about. One story was told that being in need of a walking plow he went to LeRoy afoot because he did not want to spare a horse from the field work. At LeRoy he purchased the plow, heaved it on his shoulders and started the long walk back to his farm on Turkey Creek, a distance of around 15 miles as the road went then.

Somewhere along the road he stopped to rest. George Shepard, an early day settler who lived a mile west of the Dutro corner, seven miles west of Yates Center, came along in a wagon. He gave Weide and his plow a ride for about four miles to the Shepard home where the sturdy German again shouldered the plow and walked on to his homestead.

Godfrey Weide and his family, and his brother Karl Weide and family, were the founders of the Turkey Creek Church. This was in 1876—just 94 years ago.

There were four children in the Godfrey Weide family—Charles H., who married Minnie Opperman, their children were Edward, Charles, Albert, Martha, Hattie, who married Albert E. Butler, Emil, Emma, who married Wm. Walthausen, Lillie, who married August Beine, Edith, who married Edward Stockebrand, Alice, who married Louis E. Stockebrand, and Leonard Weide.

Frederick W., who was married to Anna Buender, who was born at Auburn, Iowa, and when eleven years old came to Woodson County with her father in 1874. They were married in November, 1879. Their seven children were Mary, who was married to John Neufeld; Eda, who married Albert E. Butler; Clara, who married Lucas Nanninga; Louis Weide, Walter Weide, Juanita, who married Simon Nanninga, and Sarah,

who married Maynard Agnew and after his passing was married to Dan McIntire. Louis was a minister in the Evangelical Conference. Clara and Eda were ministers wives.

Minnie or Wilhelmina was the only daughter of Godfrey Weide. She was married to John Liebau in Elk County. Later they moved to a farm along Brazil Creek, eleven miles west of Yates Center. They had eight children: Emma (Mrs. Canna Fuqua), Anna (Mrs. Will Bauder), Mary (Mrs. Adam Stock), Edith (Mrs. Grover Holderman), Elsie (Mrs. Will Nordmeyer), Hattie, (Mrs. James Matlock), Fred and Charles Liebau.

A frame house was built on the west side of the road just north of the Turkey Creek Church. Fred W. Weide came in possession of this quarter section in 1880. This was made into one of the finest farms in Woodson County. The house was enlarged. There were three large barns—horse barn, cattle barn and hay barn. A hog house, carriage shed, colt shed, a shop and several other buildings.

William M. Weide, known by many as "Whisker Bill" to determine him from the other William Weide's in this area, grew to manhood on the original Weide homestead. He was the youngest of the Godfrey Weide family. He was born in the old log cabin in March, 1861. As a boy he herded sheep and cattle for his father over the prairie to the south and west, almost to Cedar Creek.

On July 16, 1884, William M. Weide was married to Theresa Baurfeld by H. Koepsel, Minister of the Gospel. They started their home at the head of Owl Creek in the northeast quarter of section 34-24-14.

There were seven children in this family: Elmer, Albert, Arthur, Amanda (Mrs. Charles Mulsow), Martha (Mrs. George King), Wallace D. and Fred.

The Weide farm extended to more acreage along the head of Owl Creek and they always kept a large flock of sheep.

Theresa (Mrs. Wm. M. Weide) and Minnie (Mrs. Charles H. Weide) were half-sisters.

The original Godfrey Weide farm, which came to the possession of Charles H. Weide, became one of the finest stock farms in the county. A large two-story house was built around 1883. And to the northwest of the house was built one of the finest and largest barns in the county. This barn was struck by lightning and burned many years ago. Besides the old sheep barn there was a large horse barn, cattle sheds, grain bins, an apple shed that stood at the edge of the apple orchard in the bend of the creek south of the house. A lean-to frame room was built on the north side of the old mud house and when the Weide's kept several hired men the lean-to was used as a kitchen and the rock house as a bunk house. Later a frame bunk house was built. The last years the old log cabin was used it was used as a smoke house to cure the meat as butchered. When the old mud house was torn down it was necessary to use some dynamite to tear it down.

The original homestead of Godfrey Weide and family was in the southeast quarter of section 12, township 24, and range 14. Eighty acres of the homestead was in the northeast quarter of section 13, with Turkey Creek running through the center of it.



Godfrey Weide

## COOKVILLE —

Cookville like the majority of the early day post offices, moved around to different homes and farms. But the original Cookville had its start in the northeast quarter of section 8, township 26, and range 17, in Perry township.

John W. Cook, his wife Jane and three children, Emma, George and Lula, came to Woodson County and purchased this farm in 1877.

The early day wagon trail and stage coach line from Humboldt to Belmont and on to Eureka came through this farm. One of the stage coach stops was about a half mile west of this farm. That would put it about a half mile north of the present Perry schoolhouse on the east side of the road. About this same year, 1877, the stage coach line was discontinued, but the wagon or stage road came by the Cook house.

On May 20, 1879, John W. Cook established a post office in his residence and called it Cookville. Besides being called Cookville it was also known as the "seven mile house," being that distance from Humboldt. It became quite a popular place for the freighters traveling the wagon trail as "meals and lodging" could be had here, besides a place to go feed and water their horses and oxen.

The Cook home was made partly of native limestone, and is still standing. Ray Hays, who lived in that vicinity for over 80 years, recalled to the editor one time that as a boy they would go to the top of the "Gursham hill" a mile and half east of the Cook home almost any time of the day and see wagons or other vehicles coming or going. This hill is a half mile from the Allen County line.

In the spring of 1883, John W. Cook drove a team and buggy to Humboldt. Coming home just west of Humboldt, Owl Creek was out of its banks following a heavy rain. A train coming into the station gave a shrill whistle that scared the team of horses and they ran into the high water. Cook was thrown from the buggy and drowned. It was believed that he was hurt by one of the horses as he was a good swimmer.

The post office of Cookville was then taken over by Ira B. Owens, June 22, 1883. However, he did not keep it very long. On October, 1883, Elliot Cole was appointed as postmaster and the post office of Cookville was moved to Mr. Cole's farm a mile north on the Parallel line. This was also a stone house. Mr. Cole kept the post office from that date until a rural route was established through there in January of 1904, when the papers were transferred to Rose.

In the Yates Center News of May 6, 1887, we find the following: Cookville, Kansas — The following is the proceedings of the meeting held at the Maple Grove schoolhouse Sunday, May 1, 1887, for the organization of a Sunday School. The house was called to order by Wm. Reed, and after song and prayer, proceeded to elect the following officers: Superintendent, Wm. Reed; Assistant Superintendent, Elliot Cole; Secretary, Andrew Hamm; Treasurer, Orra Henderson. Name of school, Maple Grove Union Sunday School; collection, \$1.43; Andrew

Huff, Secretary.

Cookville — May 22, 1896

Last Thursday night as Charles Ball, who is staying with Mr. Reed and farming his place, came home from prayer meeting and was seized by about 15 masked persons who dragged him out and on the road and gave him 20 lashes at the hands of the mob. Ball was given one day of sunshine to leave for parts unknown.

It seems that Ball had been treating Mr. Reed badly and had been given a week's notice before but did not heed. On Saturday Ball hitched a team to the buggy and drove to Yates Center with Miss Lula Reed and they were married and are now living peaceable at home.

The writer (Cookville Items) was over one day last week and interviewed Prof. John Cole and was shown through his workshop. The professor is working on a flying machine which he claims he will invent.

Launders Bros. have purchased a new steam thresher and will compete with all competitors.

June 12, 1896 — Quite a sad accident happened to Fred Schaeede Sunday afternoon as he was going home from W. M. Hartwicks with his wife and six small children.

While crossing South Owl Creek at the ford one mile west of the Reedy schoolhouse the team and buggy was washed off the ford, drowning the team and one little girl six years old. The rest of the family got on top of the buggy and in tree tops, while Mr. Schaeede ran to the Wm. Launders home for assistance. The rest of the family was then gotten out safely, but owing to the great depth of the water the body of the child was not recovered until 9:45 Monday a.m., 100 yards below the ford.

Woodson County Post—Neosho Falls, January 7, 1874

Six wedding licenses were issued during December, 1873, at the county seat at Kalida. (There were 46 issued during 1873). The six licenses issued were to James M. Phillips-Elizabeth Seiver; Levi Robins-Mary J. Scott; H. D. Phillips-Jennie Schaefer; H. V. Dow-Addie Dumond; Marcus Brush-Lydia A. Jackson; Hugh Alexander-Lydia Wallace.

#### SCHOOL DISTRICTS OF THE COUNTY —

While the school district we knew as No. 1 was not the first school in the county, it was one of the first. It was first known as Number One, Liberty Township. The first five schools of the county were each Number One, and the name of the first five townships, until 1865 when they were named consecutively. By that time there were at least eight schools in the county.

School Dist. No. 1 was first organized in the spring of 1860, although Andreas History of Kansas gives the first term of school there in 1859. The first school was held in a log cabin on the Asa Whitney farm. The first teacher was Miss Emily Winn and the first

school board was Asa Whitney, Emeric Chase and W. Evans. Two other teachers in the log school were Mrs. Asa Whitney and Miss Helen S. Miller. Helen Miller taught there in 1867 and held a third grade certificate. The following year, 1868, she was married to Frederick Arnold.

In 1870 the people of the district voted bonds to build a new frame schoolhouse. Samuel Naylor had homesteaded just across the road from where the schoolhouse was to be built. This was nine miles north and almost two miles west of Yates Center. Naylor took the contract to build the school for \$600.

Samuel Naylor established a post office in his home in February, 1870, and called it Byron. From then on the school was known as Byron School District No. 1.

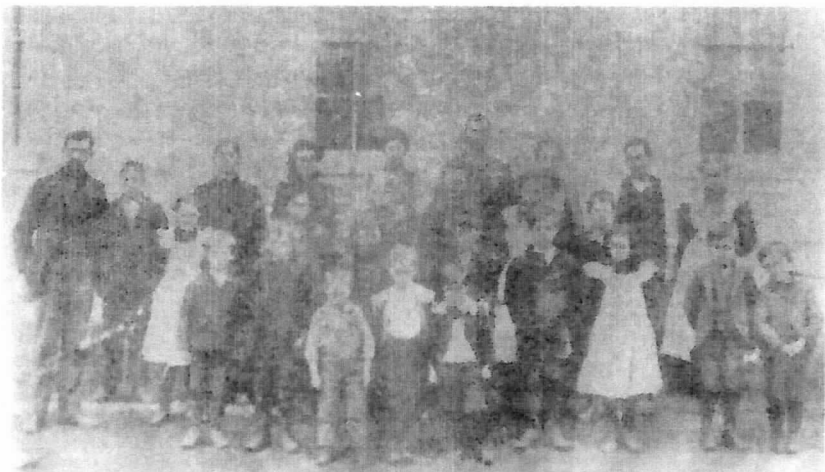
Methodist and Baptist groups each organized Sunday Schools in Liberty township in 1859. They held union services in the No. 1 schoolhouse from the time it was built. In August, 1873, the editor of the Woodson County Post of Neosho Falls referred to the school as the Naylor schoolhouse. Here the Farmer's Club of Cherry met that month and the subject was Wheat Culture.

Along about this same year the Woodson County Normal Institute was held at No. 1. A two-day session was held there at that time.

School was held here until sometime in the 1940's when school was discontinued for awhile and then started up again as pupils from the Bell Racket district were added to Dist. No. 1. The school was discontinued in 1958. The building was sold and is now being used as a granary on the Avery Carter farm.

Some of the other teachers at No. 1 were L. N. Tallman, Daisy Bales, Addie Hassenpflug, H. O. Etter, Ellen Randall (Mrs. Henry Old), Susie Peake, Florence Heistand, Chester Old, Hazel Sturdivan (Mrs. Leslie Stockebrand), Emma Wrampe, Letha Manifold (Mrs. Arthur Stockebrand), Mabel McCormick.





This picture of the teacher and pupils of the Dist. No. 1 was taken around 1905-06. The teacher with the handlebar mustache was Henry Old, who taught quite a few terms of school in Woodson County. In between some of his years of teaching he operated a store at Burt. Standing next to the teacher is Lige Lake, then Chester Old, Alta Old, (Mulsow), Bert Covault, Noah Old, Josie Guy (Shepard), Clyde Peck, and Bessie Williams (Steiner); middle row, Ethel Randall (Old), John Stockebrand, Lizzie Lake, Cora Covault, Edna Williams and Keith Kinyon. Third row, Percy Harding, Bill Lake, Leslie Stockebrand, Earl Guy, Arthur Harding, Grace Crumrine (Crawford-Mulnow), Walter Stockebrand, Fred Stockebrand. The three boys on front row are Glen Harding, Elmer Crumrine and Floyd Randall.

#### School District No. 15 —

The first school held in what was known in later years as the Durand School Dist. No. 15, was held in the home of August Lauber on the hill about a mile north and west of where the school was later built. August Lauber was one of the first settlers in that vicinity and was evidently a civic-minded person as the first religious service in that community was held in his home in 1868. Perhaps we should say that this was the first service of the Evangelical church in that community.

District 15 was organized April 9, 1867 and the boundaries fixed by S. J. Williams, county superintendent of public instruction. The first school board listed in 1867 was August Stockebrand, William Stockebrand and W. W. Sain. The address of the Stockebrands was given as Coloma, located several miles up Owl Creek from the school. In 1868, the school board was B. F. Johnson, August Toedman and William Stockebrand and their address was given as Bath, Kansas. Bath

was located at the Yohon farm several miles down Owl Creek. In 1871, the school board was August Lauber, George Faler and August Toedman, and their address was given as Kalida. The post offices seemed to be moving faster than the people were.

We did not learn who was the first teacher or teachers at Dist. 15, but Rev. C. Emmel, an Evangelical preacher out of Humboldt came to the Lauber home every two weeks to hold religious services and would also teach school.

A stone schoolhouse was built on the homestead of August Toedman. Being built of stone it was known as the "Stone" school for awhile. This building was built in 1870 by a man named Oderlin, who was a grandfather of Wesley and Louis Toedman. This man also built the stone house for the Stockebands in the district at that time. Church was held in the schoolhouse for awhile.

In 1919 the old stone schoolhouse gave way to a newer and more modern schoolhouse.

That sturdy old schoolmaster, A. J. Jones, known to hundreds of scholars and students over Woodson County over a period of many years was an early day teacher at this school. He taught there in the later 1870's and was the first teacher in the teacher records of the school in 1881. Peter Bell was listed as the first teacher in the stone school. He was a lawyer at Kalida, and a booster for the town of Kalida as it was being established.

At the conclusion of an eight month term ending May 11, 1885, a plaque was given to the pupils with the following being printed on it.  
"Teacher, A. J. Jones. To whom it may concern —

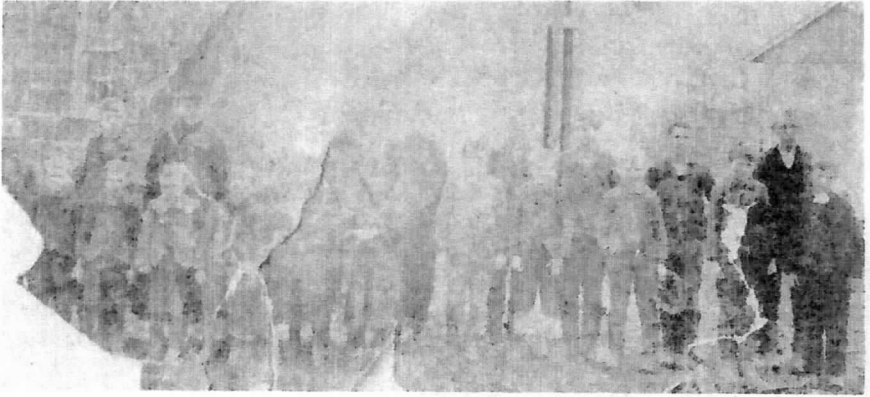
Star Roll: Names of those whose deportment does not average less than 98 per cent: John Ault, Ida Blevins, Annie DeVaney, May Davidson, Louisa Fulhage, Gustaf Fulhage, August Harder, Martha Harder, Grace Hollenback, Alice Linder, August Lauber, Tilla Lauber, Johnny Lauber, Nancy Morrow, Annie Morrow, Lottie Meyers, Emma Meyers, Eva Nedrow, Tillie Stockebrand, Charlotte Morrow, Minnie Morrow, Mary Stockebrand, Louisa Stockebrand, William Stockebrand, Charley Stockebrand, Justina Stockebrand, Pauline Stockebrand, Frank Stockebrand, Emma Stockebrand, Henry Stockebrand, Amil Stockebrand, Mary Toedman, Ernest Toedman, Willie Toedman, Wesley Toedman, Louis Toedman.

Roll of Honor: Names of those averaging 90 per cent but not less than 89 per cent in deportment: Sammy Allen, Fred Brockman, Henry Brockman, Dora Brockman, Mary Brockman, Jimmy Blevins, Willie Fulhage, Leonidas Hollenbeck, Henry Lauber, Albert Meyers, Johnny Meyers, Jacob Oswald, Katie Oswald, Julius Stockebrand, Sammy Taylor.

Some of the pupils and parent of pupils did not like the idea of grading and putting names on this plaque according to the behavior in school rather by grades in studies. There were 56 scholars enrolled during the term mentioned above.

Later as the railroad came through here the school name was changed to Durand. Later it was consolidated with other schools and called Dist. No. 83.

Some other teachers here were Fred Wilkerson, Emma Stockebrand, Charlotte Meyers, Scott Spencer, May Camac, Ina Watts (Rhea), Julia Kesterson (Fulhage), Esther Fulhage, who was the last teacher in the stone school and Sophia Kesterson (Tannahill) the first in the new school. Mrs. Tannahill also taught 12 years at Durand—possibly a record.



This picture of the Durand School Dist. No. 15 was believed to have been taken in the fall or during the winter of 1894. It shows the old stone building. The small building to the right was a combination coal and wood shed and horse stable. The teacher this term was Mrs. C. L. (Luther) Davidson—not in the picture. The pupils are identified as follows, although there could be some mistakenly identified: Back row, ———— Wilkinson, Martha Fulhage, Mary Morrow, Kate Robinson, Ida Meyers, Emma Meyers, Roy Davidson, Ed Robinson, Homer Barnes, Gus Fulhage; front row, Leon Wilkerson, Earl Davidson, Ralph Meyers, Milton Robinson, Alta Robinson, Eva Davidson, Joe Meyers, Elmer Barnes, Walter Barnes, ———— Robinson, Fritz Kelley.

Durand in later years was one of the first if not the first school in the county to be known as a Standard Class A school. After it became a part of Unified Dist. No. 366, it was used as the kindergarten school. It was sold early in 1970. The building and one acre of ground brought \$1600. L. C. Chambers and son Marvin were the high bidders.

#### THE RANDALL FAMILY —

For many years in the Burt vicinity, along Turkey and Duck Creeks, there were three well-known families that were related by marriage—the Randall's, Gordon's, and Old's. The family we would like to tell about in this issue are the Randall's. However the story would not be complete without some of the others.

William A. Randall and Charlotte Louise Channell were both born in the Province of Quebec, Canada. They were married in 1861, and lived for several years in Canada.

When her brothers began seeking their fortunes in the United States, Mr. and Mrs. Randall and two small children, Forrest J. and Florence, came to the new state of Kansas. They settled first in Cowley County near where her brothers were located. But as the Channell brothers left for California, the William Randall family came to Woodson County. Here they obtained 80 acres from the MK&T Railroad.

The 80 was the north half of the NE quarter of section 29, township 23, and range 15, with Duck Creek running through the west part of the homestead. This was in 1870.

Here two more daughters were born to them, Lucy and Ellen.

Forrest Randall was married to India Gordon—their children were Ethel (Mrs. Chester Old), Floyd, Dean and Luriel (Mrs. Clarence Mathews).

Florence was first married to Mike Williams. They had two daughters—Bessie (Mrs. Joe Steiner), and Edna Williams. Florence was later married to Sam Gordon. Their children were Alfred Gordon, Alice (Mrs. Russell Stockebrand) and Lucy (Mrs. Herbert Wait).

Lucy Randall was married to Lawson N. Tallman. Their children were Joe and James Tallman.

Ellen was married to Henry Old. Their children were Oma (Mrs. Caldwell), Lola (Mrs. Faurot), Edna (Mrs. Thompson) and Fern Old.

We would like to pay tribute here to one who was not known officially as a doctor, but who for over 30 years administered to the sick and ailing throughout the northern part of Woodson and some into Coffey County. Records left by her at the courthouse in Yates Center were simply signed "C. L. Randall", but to everyone in that vicinity she was always known as "Grandma Randall".

She was known as a Homeopathic doctor, but she was unequaled as a midwife. Scores and perhaps hundreds of tiny bundles of humanity were assisted into this world by her. Day and night, no matter what kind of weather, whenever a call came for her assistance she always responded. Her team of ponies was hitched to an open buggy and she usually made the trip alone. Many were the hardships and experiences she encountered in carrying out her work.

Grandma Randall was born at Bedford, Province of Quebec, Canada, February 11, 1842. Self-taught in doctoring, using a good doctor book, Grandma began her midwifery and homeopathic doctoring, soon establishing their home along Duck Creek. Evidently she saw a great need for her services here. When she was criticized and persecuted by licensed doctors she signed her birth certificates and orders for medicine with a masculine "C. L. Randall" since there was a prejudice against women doctors.

Grandma's little black bag contained long rows of vials of pills, small

pellets of sugar-based, which bore such names as aconite, belladonna, bryona, ipecae, pulsatilla and nox vomica. These were given three or four to a dose and as often as every fifteen minutes. Also in her bag were tweezers, a fever thermometer, and a few other instruments whose use were unknown to some of her grandchildren who used to peep into the bag and smell the medicinery smells. She always had a large bottle of camphor which was fine for smelling when one was faint, for rubbing on the temples for headaches, and for putting on pimples and boils and sties on the eyes. Grandma always mixed her own camphor from camphor gum.

Mrs. Randall usually spent at least two weeks on a confinement case, often longer, at which time she tended the birth, cared for the baby and mother, managed the other children, cooked, washed and cleaned for the family, doctored anyone else in the family, and went home with a fee of five dollars. She loved people and enjoyed life fully. She took great pride in the speed of her ponies and being of an adventurous spirit, she could never resist a horse race with anyone who tried to pass her on the road.

(While the editor was in no way related to Mrs. Randall, to us she was always "Grandma"). There were four of us children in the Harding family, and Grandma Randall was present when each one of us was born.

Grandma Randall gave up her practice as a doctor only when her eyesight failed her completely. For some years she raised roses at her little house on the top of the hill to the east of Duck Creek.

William Randall was considered an indifferent farmer. He was first of all a student. He read everything informative that was available. He often hired out to dig wells but was more interested in the formation of the earth than in collecting the fee for the work. He so disliked hitching up a team that he often walked to Burlington and carried groceries and a sack of flour home on his shoulders. He loved to argue politics and religion. He was often quoted for his unusual and philosophical sayings.



#### The Randall Family

Standing in the back row, left to right: Mrs. Florence Randall (Gordon), Mrs. Lucy Randall (Tallman), Edna Williams, Lawson Tallman, Joe Tallman, Alfred Gordon, Dean Randall, Chester Old, holding his oldest child, Floyd Randall, James Tallman. Next row seated—Mrs. Ellen Randall (Old), Mrs. India Gordon (Randall), Henry Old, holding Fern Old, Forrest Randall, Mrs. Ethel Randall (Old), Sam Gordon. The elderly couple seated are Mrs. Charlotte "Grandma" and Wm. Randall. Front row seated—Oma Old, Alice Gordon, Edna Old, Lucy Gordon, Lota Old, Luriel Randall.

In time we will tell about each of the other families. They helped make a lot of history around Burt.

\* \* \* \* \*

Yates Center News—May 6, 1904

The team that hauls the oil wagon from Iola to this place made a lively little run away on the streets here Monday evening. They started south on the west side of the square, but were headed off and dashed into the courthouse yard where the horses broke loose and were stopped. The running gears were broken all to pieces but the oil tank was unhurt.

Early Day Cattle Camps in Northwest Woodson County —

The coming of large herds of cattle from eastern Kansas and western Missouri to this range in northwest Woodson was not taken very friend-



ly by some of the settlers along the edge of this range, especially along upper Big Creek to the north and to the east edge around Keck. The settlers did not believe that these cattlemen had any of this land leased, and in some cases they did not, and did not like the idea of strangers chiseling in on this open range. There was possibly 20,000 acres in that area. In 1887 a group of men from Lawrence, Kansas, had a herd of black cattle on this range and had their camp at the Dry Creek Cave.

The first barbed wire fence was put up on the range in 1887 when E. P. Garnett fenced a section just west and south of the Dry Creek Cave along the Greenwood County line.

Also this year when A. Walley brought his herd from Amorett, Mo., and ranged south of the Van Horn Ranch, and corraled them on the ranch, a man named Griffith, who lived nearby shot into the herd one night and scattered them. This caused quite some trouble between the herder and some of the nearby farmers.

Sometime after the Sages came here with their cattle, horses and mules in 1888, they awoke one morning to find their 80 head of horses and mules gone. After considerable hunting they were found about six miles from camp. The stock were all laying down—played out. They had been run all night.

In 1888, when Jake Hawk had his sheep camp at the cave and Plummer the cow camp a half mile east of the cave, as told in the No. 11 issue of "In The Beginning," these herders would find warning notes ever so often. Some of these notes would be pinned to the tent flap, others would be laid on rocks near the camps where the herder would be sure to find them. The notes were warnings, stating that the herders get their sheep and cattle off this range by a certain time or suffer the consequences. Word was sent back to Missouri to the owners of the herds.

Two men were sent here from Missouri who stayed in Plummer's tent for a week. The settlers evidently got wise to that and stayed away as no more notes were left.

In later years some of the "nesters" to the east of this range told of having a hand in leaving these warning notes and of stampeding the stock. Gradually sections, half sections and quarter sections began to be fenced, and the open range was shut off. Some of these cattlemen brought herds to this range for years, as we will tell about.

# **PATRONS OF THE WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

John V. Glades Agency  
Woodson County Co-op  
State Exchange Bank  
Street Abstract Co.  
Schornick Oil Co.  
Self Service Grocery  
Krueger's Variety & Dry Goods  
Leo W. Mills  
Hi-Way Food Basket  
Farmers Co-op, Piqua  
Gaulding Oil Co.  
Harry O. Ashley  
Swope & Son Impl. Co.  
H. R. Campbell & Sons  
Furniture & Undertaking  
Clyde Hill  
Whelan Lumber Co.  
Cantrell Buick-Pontiac  
Paul C. Laidlaw  
Krueger Cleaners  
Gambles-Friendly Store  
Rogers Bros. Garage  
Mahon Motor Co.  
Charles H. Carpenter  
Newtex Manufacturing Co.  
Yates Center Skelgas Service  
J. C. Schnell  
Wood-Perkins Dept. Store

Al's Jewelry  
First National Bank-Toronto  
Security Oil Co.  
Blackjack Cattle Co.  
Yates Center Elevator Co.  
Jasper's Shopping Spot  
Bill Taylor-Gen. Agent  
Woodson Co. Farm Bureau  
Daly Western Supply  
Pyeatte-Jaynes Ins. Agency  
Atkin Clinic  
Dyer Chevrolet Co.  
Henry E. Stephenson  
Linde Barber Shop  
House of Fabrics  
Light Hardware  
Campbell Plumbing & Electric  
Brown's Western Auto  
Donald E. Ward  
Wilma Mark  
Milton Wrampe  
E. E. Light  
Yates Center News.  
Everybody's Grocery  
Pringle Ranch-J.W. & J. Richard  
The Virginian Hotel  
Baker Rexall Drug Store  
Smith Furniture & Funeral Home

